American Aid to India and Pakistan

4585. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has agreed to provide a large scale aid to India and Pakistan both of which have now classified as frontline States supporting the US in the war against terrorism;

(b) if so, the total aid, so far, provided to both India and Pakistan by the US;

(c) whether India has objected on this issue because Pakistan has been continuously siding the terrorist activities in India; and

(d) if so, the US Government's reaction on India's objection in providing aid to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The United States has proposed for its fiscal year 2003 allocation of U.S. $ 50 million to India as Foreign Military Financing for the war on terrorism. Government's focus in the ongoing India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation is not on financial assistance from the United States, but on capacity building and coordinating approaches and efforts in combating terrorism.

The United States has provided Pakistan a wide range of economic assistance to combat terrorism in Pakistan and for the support—Pakistan has provided for the ongoing campaign in Afghanistan. Besides providing U.S. $ 73 million in fiscal year 2001 to Pakistan for border security assistance, the U.S. economic and military assistance to Pakistan amounts to more than US $ 1 billion over the US fiscal years 2001-2003.

(c) The amount of assistance provided to Pakistan is a matter for the U.S. Government to decide. Government has consistently pointed out to the United States Pakistan's links with international terrorism, including its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India.

(d) The United States has on a number of occasions stated that Pakistan must take steps to end Pakistan's links with terrorism and fulfil the commitments made by President Musharraf on 12 January 2002, including with regard to cross-border terrorisim in India.

Agreements with Indonesia

†4586. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some agreements have been signed with Indonesia during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when these agreements would be implemented; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes; Sir.

(b) The following Agreement/MOUs were signed on 3-4-2002 during the visit of President Megawati Soekarnoputri of Indonesia to India:

(i) Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders;

(ii) MOU between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Lembaga Penerbangan Dan Antriksa National (LAPAN) (Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space) on Cooperation in the Field of Outer Space Research and Development;

(iii) MOU concerning Setting up of Vocational Training Centre for Construction Sector.

The agreement at SI. No. (i) above will come into force after the procedures for ratification of the Agreement by both countries are complete.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.